



Congleton Rural District Council.

Report of Medical Officer of Health For the Year 1937.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the District, for the Year 1937.

Medical Officer of Health ANTHONY BENNETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector R. C. FORD, M.S.I.A.

Vital Statistics

Area in Acres...	...	...	...	...	38,704
Registrar Generals estimate of Resident Population	...	...	...	...	11,700
Number of Inhabited Houses (Estimated)	...	...	...	...	3,170
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£46,528
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£184

		Total	M.	F.		
Live Births {	Legitimate ...	160	89	71	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.4
	Illegitimate ...	4	4	0		
Stillbirths	...	5	3	2	} Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	29.58
Deaths	...	134	72	62	} Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11.45

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—			Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births)	
No. 29, Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	1	...	5.91
No. 30, Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	0	...	Nil
Totals	...	...	1	...	5.91

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:—

	All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	54.87
	Legitimate	...	...	...	54.87
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	Nil
Death from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil

Area—The District is largely Agricultural, but there are also various industries in this and neighbouring districts: Salt, Engineering, Motor Body Building, Wire Manufacture, Mining, and Silk Mills.

Laboratory Facilities.—Pathological specimens are examined at the expense of the Council, at the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester.

Tuberculosis specimens are examined at the County Council's Laboratory at Chester.

Ambulance Facilities.—These appear to be adequate. The Sandbach Motor Ambulance carries non-infectious cases and accidents. It attends promptly when a call is made for it.

The West Heath Sanatorium possesses an Ambulance for Infectious cases, while a Horse drawn vehicle is kept at the Small-pox Hospital especially for any case of Small-pox that should arise.

Home Nursing.—The Area is well served by the various District Nurses, who are found to be very popular and keen on their work.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—Only one centre is situated in the District, that for Child Welfare at Mow Cop.

The Sandbach Child Welfare Centre is widely utilised and does excellent work for the District.

Orthopædic Centres at Crewe and Congleton and an Ante-Natal Centre at Congleton are available.

Tuberculosis Clinics at Crewe and Congleton, and Clinics for Venereal Disease at Stoke-on-Trent and Manchester.

Hospitals.—The Manchester Royal Infirmary and the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary admit cases from the area.

A large portion of the area is also served by the Albert Infirmary, Winsford.

Cases are sometimes taken to the Congleton and Crewe Memorial Hospitals.

Maternity Cases are admitted to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, Longton Hospital, and the Crewe Borough Maternity Home.

There is also a Ward at the Arclid Infirmary for Maternity Cases.

Nursing Homes.—The Sandbach Nursing Home receives Medical, Surgical and Maternity Cases.

Infectious Diseases Hospitals.—For Infectious Diseases, the Joint Sanatorium at West Heath is available for cases in the area.

Cases of Erysipelas and Pneumonia can now be admitted. No provision is, however, made for severe cases of Whooping Cough which occasionally require Hospital treatment.

Clothing and Bedding are disinfected at the Hospital.

Puerperal Fever cases are admitted to Crewe Isolation Hospital.

The Joint Small-pox Hospital at Arclid has not been used during the year, but has been inspected and found to be in excellent order and ready at any time to take in a case.

There are five Male and five Female Beds, in addition to accomodation for Nurses.

Pollution of Streams.—The water ways and water courses in the District show a continued improvement though some pollution is still present in the River Wheelock. Improvement in the Holmes Chapel and Odd Rode areas is due to the increased number of premises connected to the new sewers.

Water Supply.—There is now an adequate supply of mains water in nineteen out of the twenty parishes of which the District is composed, and it is probable that this remaining parish will receive a piped supply in the near future.

The rapid growth, in the consumption of water—partly by extension of water mains over and above that intended in the original scheme—has produced a situation, not expected to be reached before 1960.

With increased pumping to meet these needs, there has been some lowering of the Rest and Pumping Levels in the Boreholes. The increased depth is not such as to cause undue alarm, but in order to cope with future increasing consumption by augmentation of the present supply, our Consulting Engineers have prepared a complete Geological Survey of the Water Resources of the District.

The continuance of satisfactory reports indicates that the Base Exchange Softening Plant is working well and is appreciated.

The number of premises connected to the mains during the year is 159, and 38 meters have been installed.

Sewage Disposal.—A small disposal works has been installed near Twemlow Green for the treatment of sewage from a nearby farm and houses. This and the new Disposal Works at Holmes Chapel and Odd Rode are working well, and from these, as from the Malkins Bank and Lawton Works, a satisfactory effluent is maintained.

A report on the Drainage Arrangements for the village of Goostrey is in course of preparation by our Consulting Engineers, and arrangements for the remaining parts of Odd Rode and part of Church Lawton will soon have to be considered.

Cowsheds and Dairies.—The milk companies awards for clean milk have produced the desire for greater cleanliness in shippens and dairies. To this end the remodelling and alteration of shippens and the provision of separate dairies proceeds apace.

During the year, twelve cowsheds have been remodelled or altered, two new ones have been built, one dairy altered and one built. Some sixty new or additional windows have been fixed, while at twenty-five farms drinking bowls have been installed and thirty-six water meters have been fixed in farm premises.

The improvement in the quality of the milk produced is maintained, no complaints of dirty milk having been received during the year.

Bakehouses.—There are ten of these in the District. Two have been closed during the year. Inspection reveals that they are regularly limewashed, kept clean and generally well managed. No complaints have been received.

Canal Boats.—These are inspected at varying intervals as they pass through the District. Generally they are found to be in a clean condition and in good repair.

Foot and Mouth Disease.—The District has again been free from this.

Slaughter Houses.—There are now four licensed and five registered Slaughter Houses in the District.

During the year some 255 visits have been made to slaughter houses and 30 to food premises. Generally the premises are kept in good order and no complaints have been received.

Meat Inspection.—Total weight of meat found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned is: 6 tons, 10 cwt., 3 qrs., 10 lbs.

Number of carcasses inspected under Tuberculosis Order, 41.

Factories and Workshops.—There are now seventy-one on the register. These are visited at intervals and nothing has been noted to call for action. No complaints have been received from the Factory Inspector.

Plans.—Plans for 89 Houses, 7 Bungalows, 8 Garages, 1 Vicarage, 1 Police Station, 2 Licensed Premises and 6 Farm Buildings, together with 26 alterations have been submitted to the Council.

All except nine plans of various buildings have been approved.

Premises erected and completed during the year are as follows:— 66 Dwelling Houses, 5 Bungalows, 7 Garages, 7 other classes, and 18 alterations or additions.

Scavenging.—The Council undertake removal of Nightsoil and House Refuse in the following localities:— Betchton, Church Hulme, Church Lawton, Fir Close, Mount Pleasant Scholar Green, Rode Heath, Thurlwood, Goostrey.

The work is carried out by contract. The contractors carry out their duties satisfactorily and very few complaints of neglect are received.

Housing.—

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year:—

(1).	Total No. of Dwelling-Houses inspected for housing defects [under Public Health or Housing Acts].	...	...	...	...	...	940
	No. of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	983
(2).	No. of Dwelling-Houses [included in sub-head 1 above] which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1935.	...	...	...	...	...	101
	No. of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	107
(3).	No. of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	...	...	...	...	...	35
(4).	No. of Dwelling-Houses [exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head] found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	66

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:—

No. of Dwelling-Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the					
Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	25

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(1). Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(a) No. of Dwelling-Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
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(b) No. of Dwelling-Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—

(1). By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	4
(2). By Local Authority in default of owner				...	...	Nil

(2). Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(a) No. of Dwelling-Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
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(b) No. of Dwelling-Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:—

(1). By Owners	...	...	...	...	2
(2). By Local Authority in default of Owner	...	...	...	...	Nil

(3). Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13, Housing Act, 1936:—

(a) No of Dwelling-Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	3
(b) No. of Dwelling-Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	1

(4). Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 ... Nil

Sanitary Inspector's Report.—

All parts of the District are regularly visited, such matters as require attention are noted and procedure is usually by informal action.

The "B" Survey of Houses for Overcrowding has been completed and a programme of Re-Housing formulated. This programme includes the provision of houses for the Overcrowded for Agricultural Labourers, and for such as are displaced by demolitions.

The following is a summary of work carried out during the year:—

Total Number of Inspections of:—

Houses	....	....	940
Reinspections	...	....	1,175
Complaints	....	....	70
Slaughter Houses	....	....	255
Food Premises	....	....	30
Cowsheds and Dairies	....	....	365
Bakehouses	....	....	36
Factories	....	....	16
Workshops	....	....	39
Canal Boats	....	....	16
Fire Brigade Equipment		....	3
Petroleum Stores	....	....	24
Sewers and Disposal Works		....	290
Water Works and Mains		....	152
Booster Station	....	....	4
Water Meters	....	....	1,740
Infectious Disease	....	....	37
New Buildings during Erection		....	370
Interviews	....	....	190
Attendance at Council Meetings		....	13
Water and Sewage Committee		....	11
Town Planning Committee		....	3
Housing Committee	....	....	12
Brine Subsidence Committee		....	1
Other Committees	....	....	2
Police Court	....	....	1
County Court	....	....	3
Air Raid Precautions Committee	....		1

Defects Remedied, etc. :—

Houses connected to Sewer	....	218	Ceilings Repaired	..	29
Drains Repaired	....	14	Stairs	..	13
„ Unchoked	....	6	Doors Repaired	....	28
„ Tested	....	71	Exterior Walls Repaired	..	14
Privies and Pail Closets Abolished		161	Gutters & Down Spout Repaired	....	16
„ „ „ „ altered to W.C		161	New Ashbins	....	35
Closets Repaired	....	15	Water Laid on from Main	....	159
New Slopstones	....	8	„ Main Repairs	....	12
„ Lavatory Basins	....	6	Water Meters Fixed	....	38
„ Waste Pipes	....	7	New Sewers		366 yds.
Yards Paved or Repaired	....	13	„ Disposal Works	....	1
Fireplaces Repaired	....	18	„ Baths	....	14
Chimneys Repaired	....	16	Cowsheds, New	....	3
Wash Houses Repaired	....	7	„ Remodelled	....	12
Coppers Repaired	....	11	Dairies, New	....	1
Windows Altered or Repaired	..	33	„ Altered	....	16
Roofs Repaired	..	20	Water Bowls Installed	....	19
Floors Repaired	..	51	New or Additional Windows	....	48
Walls Re-plastered	..	140	Rooms Disinfected	....	43

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

83 Cases were notified during the year as against 102 in 1936. The average for the last 10 years is 91.67. Although there have been one or two small outbreaks of diptheria during the year, they have not spread to any extent.

The cases are at once isolated, usually in the Sanatorium, contacts are swabbed and the houses disinfected.

Apart from these there has been nothing abnormal to report in the District.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1937.**

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	Nil.	—	—
Scarlet Fever	20	18	Nil.
Diphtheria	13	11	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyroid) ..	Nil.	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—
Pneumonia	22	—	6
Erysipelas	5	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Up to 1 Year ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 to 5 Years ... ..	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...
5 „ 10 „ ... ..	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
10 „ 15 „ ... ..	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
15 „ 20 „	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
20 „ 25 „	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
25 „ 30 „ ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
30 „ 35 „ ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
35 „ 45 „	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
45 „ 55 „ ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
55 Years and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total... ..	3	...	6	7	2	2	1	...

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks once more to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ford, and also to the Clerk, Mr. Cross, for their assistance to me during the year.

Signed,

ANTHONY BENNETT.

Medical Officer of Health.

19th May, 1938